

Federal Response, Recovery Efforts Continue After Ida

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WASHINGTON -- A week after Ida's landfall in Louisiana, FEMA and federal agencies, along with non-profit organizations, continue supporting state and tribal governments with their ongoing response and recovery efforts in several states from the Gulf Coast to the Northeast that were affected by the storm.

FEMA has provided more than \$135 million in grants to Louisiana survivors to help them begin their recovery. FEMA also received more than 8,600 National Flood Insurance Program claims from the affected states for processing.

More than 1,000 FEMA employees are deployed to support Ida response and recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast and in the Northeast. Additionally, FEMA staff are working throughout the nation to support other ongoing response efforts, including flooding throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast and wildfires in the West.

To help support response efforts in Louisiana, FEMA is working with the state to contract for additional responder lodging resources. These efforts may include using cruise ships or building temporary base camps so that responders can help recovery efforts in the area without taking valuable hotel resources from survivors.

Visit [Hurricane Ida | FEMA.gov](#) for information and resources available for residents in areas that may be affected by Ida. The page is available in French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Federal actions to support areas affected by Hurricane Ida

- There are eight FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams deployed to support states affected by Hurricane Ida. Five are in Louisiana, one in Mississippi, one in New Jersey and one in New York. Seven AmeriCorps FEMA Corps teams are supporting Louisiana recovery efforts.
- On Thursday, [FEMA announced changes to its Individual Assistance program](#) to better support disaster survivors by reducing the barriers to agency programs that aid underserved populations. Changes in this new policy include expanding acceptance of different forms of documentation to prove ownership or occupancy, while also



expanding assistance for a disaster-caused disability.

- The **National Emergency Management Association** is helping facilitate additional resources to the Gulf Coast through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Resources from 14 states have been sent to assist with ongoing response and recovery efforts.
- Commodities, equipment and personnel are working throughout the affected areas. This includes:
 - **Disaster Survivor Assistance** teams are on the ground in Louisiana providing in-person assistance in New Orleans and other parishes.
 - **Urban Search and Rescue (US&R)** teams have completed more than 27,000 structural evaluations in affected areas in Louisiana. Three US&R teams are deployed to New Jersey.
 - More than 190 ambulance crews and 30 air ambulances are deployed and working in Louisiana. Additional ambulances and air ambulances are in Mississippi to support impacted areas.
 - **Mobile Emergency Response Support** assets including Emergency Operations Vehicles are deployed to support communication needs in Louisiana and New Jersey.
- The **Defense Logistics Agency** has been activated for fuel support and leasing of additional generators. High-output generators are in Baton Rouge, La.
- In Louisiana, The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** has activated its Operation Blue Roof program for parishes approved for individual assistance. Residents can sign up for the program and complete a Right of Entry form at [Blueroof.us](https://blueroof.us). Residents can call toll free 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258) for more information regarding this program.
- **USACE** debris management experts are conducting assessments in Louisiana. USACE Temporary Emergency Power Planning and Response Teams, contractor support and the 249th Engineer Battalion's power generation team are mobilized in Mississippi and Louisiana to conduct power assessments and installations.
- The **U.S. Department of Energy** [authorized](#) the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to conduct an exchange of 300,000 barrels of crude oil between fuel storage companies in Louisiana to alleviate any logistical issues of moving crude oil within areas affected by Hurricane Ida. This action will help ensure the region has access to fuel as quickly as possible as they continue their recovery.
- The **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** approved Louisiana's request to allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households to use their benefits to purchase prepared meals and are assisting with program flexibilities needed for mass feeding operations. USDA's Emergency Food Assistant Program was approved and will provide food packages to more than 800,000 survivors in 19 parishes.
- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** deployed more than



180 medical providers and other staff from the National Disaster Medical System to support the triage and treatment of patients in Louisiana. This includes three teams that will be providing Emergency Department decompression to three hospitals in Thibodaux, Kenner and Raceland. The team in Thibodaux will begin to see patients today. A 250-bed healthcare facility federal medical station at the New Orleans Ernest Morial Convention Center will start seeing patients this weekend. Patients must be referred to the station.

- The station will be staffed by Disaster Medical Assistance personnel and a cadre of credentialed medical volunteers identified by the Louisiana Department of Health.
- The **National Guard Bureau** has 15 high-water vehicles in New Jersey to assist in search and rescue.
 - The **Salvation Army** mobilized feeding kitchens and emergency response vehicles in Albany, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Houma, Thibodaux, Gonzalez, Kenner, LaPlace, Napoleonville, New Orleans and Raceland, La. These operations can feed up to 60,000 people a day.
 - The **American Red Cross**, with the help of their partners, has provided more than 49,000 meals and snacks for survivors in the Gulf Coast. There are more than 20 Red Cross and community shelters open in affected areas in Louisiana. There are 13 shelters open in New Jersey and three in New York.
 - The **U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration** announced an [Emergency Declaration](#) that provides truck drivers flexibility to move critical freight to areas damaged by Ida.
 - Additionally, USDOT activated an [Emergency Relief Docket](#) for railroads so they can get temporary safety regulations waivers to help them speed up service to move goods necessary for emergency relief efforts.
 - The **Federal Communications Commission** is working directly with wireless carriers so that those in affected areas can roam on any network that may be available while restoration efforts are underway. FCC daily reports and tips for communicating during an emergency, are available in multiple languages at www.fcc.gov.

